

East Tennessee Premiere of Giuseppe Verdi's

# La Forza del Destino

The Force of Destiny

February 8 and 10, 2008

Tennessee Theatre



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Brian Salesky, General Director and Conductor

30th Anniversary Season

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Dear Friends,

It is again my pleasure to welcome you to Knoxville Opera's 30th Anniversary Season. I trust you have already enjoyed our first *Oktoberfest* and the unique *Three Tenors "Hall of Fame" Gala*. My thanks to you, our loyal public, and the many individual, corporate and foundation sponsors who support our company. Our ability to continue serving the community remains in your generous hands!

Tonight marks the beginning of what I hope will become a Knoxville Opera tradition – gathering with the cast after the performance at a local restaurant to relax, eat, drink, and party. Tonight's event will take place at Green Hills Grille. Members of our new young professionals group, The Bon Vivants, will be there as well. A cash bar and full menu are available.

Destiny, Fate, and Fortune! Where would opera be without them? While "the force of destiny" in story lines sometimes creates contrived circumstances requiring us to suspend logic and credibility at times in the theatre, the theme has nonetheless inspired some of the greatest music dramas. *La Forza del Destino* is no exception.

As Bizet did with  *Carmen*, so did Verdi with his  *Forza*, creating a "fate motive" which permeates the score from beginning to end. Along the way we are treated to his best overture, splendid chorus scenes, magnificent prayers, and three killer tenor/baritone duets. Knoxville Opera is indeed proud to add this masterpiece to its repertoire.

I was privileged to grow up attending  *Forza* almost every season at The Metropolitan Opera in New York City where the production produced its own "force of destiny". In 1960, the revered baritone Leonard Warren died on stage during Act III of the opera in the arms of the distinguished tenor Richard Tucker. In 1975, Tucker, who had become one of my greatest inspirations and personal mentors, passed away. His was the only funeral ever held on the stage of The Met. Coincidentally the production on stage for that evening's performance was the same 1960  *Forza*. For Tucker and Warren who had sung many legendary performances together, Alvaro and Carlo's Act III oath – "Amici in vita e morte" – "Friends in life and death" – became their tragic reality. I dedicate these performances to them in appreciation of their unique, inspiring artistry and passion.



Brian Salesky  
General Director and Conductor

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meet the *Forza* cast

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**KNOXVILLE OPERA PRESENTS**

# La Forza del Destino

Opera in Four Acts

East Tennessee Premiere

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by

Francesco Maria Piave and Antonio Ghislanzoni

Based on the drama *Don Alvaro, ó La Fuerza del Sino*

by Angel de Saavedra Ramirez de Banquedano

and the drama *Wallensteins Lager* by Friedrich von Schiller

First performance of first version: November 10, 1862, St. Petersburg

First performance of final version: February 27, 1869, Milan

Friday, February 8, 2008 at 8:00 pm

Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 2:30 pm

Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville, Tennessee

Music Director and Conductor  
Stage Director

Brian Salesky  
Carroll Freeman

CAST (in order of appearance)

The Marquis of Calatrava	John Ames*
Leonora of Vargas, his daughter	Carter Scott*
Curra, her maid	Mieke Rickert*
Don Alvaro	Manrico Tedeschi*
Friar Melitone, Franciscan Monk	Daniel C. Webb
Padre Guardiano, Franciscan Father Superior	Andrew Wentzel
Don Carlo of Vargas, the Marquis' son	James Dietsch
Surgeon, Spanish soldier	John Arnold*
Prezlosilla, gypsy girl	Joey DiMenno*

\* Knoxville Opera debut

Servants, Franciscan Monks, Soldiers, Vivandieres;  
Knoxville Opera Chorus, Don Townsend, Chorusmaster

*There will be intermissions after Acts II and III*

## 30th Anniversary Season Events!

<i>La Forza</i> Opera Preview with Maestro Salecky	FR Feb. 9	7:15pm	Tennessee Theatre
<i>La Forza del Destino</i> Performance	FR Feb. 8	8:00pm	Tennessee Theatre
Demetrius' Reception***	FR Feb. 8	11:00pm	Tennessee Theatre
<i>La Forza</i> Opera Preview with Maestro Salecky	SU Feb. 10	1:15pm	Tennessee Theatre
<i>La Forza del Destino</i> Performance	SU Feb. 10	2:30pm	Tennessee Theatre
Demetrius' Reception***	SU Feb. 10	4:30pm	Tennessee Theatre
KC Grand St. Race & Martin Party	TH Mar. 11	6:00pm	To Be Announced
Ticket Holders' Bonus: Tosca Dress Rehearsal	WI Apr. 16	7:30pm	Tennessee Theatre
KC Grand St. Opera Dinner	FR Apr. 18	7:30pm	Club LeConte
Tosca Opera Preview with Maestro Salecky*	FR Apr. 18	7:15pm	Tennessee Theatre
Tosca Performance*	FR Apr. 18	8:00pm	Tennessee Theatre
Rosario Festival Italian Street Fair*	SA Apr. 19	12:00pm	Gay St. Downtown
Tosca Opera Preview with Maestro Salecky*	SU Apr. 20	1:15pm	Tennessee Theatre
Tosca Performance*	SU Apr. 20	2:30pm	Tennessee Theatre
KC Grand Croquet Tournament	SU May 18	Noon	1st Vistings Center

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FOR TICKETS TO ALL EVENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 800-421-1476.

## In Memoriam



**Bethany Jane Parkhurst**

September 22, 1978 – November 27, 2007

Knoxville Opera Rehearsal Accompanist January, 2008 – May, 2007

Bethany's joyous spirit, friendship, and superb collaboration will be deeply missed by our entire company.

## La Forza del Destino Synopsis

### **ACT I. Home of the Marquis of Calatrava in Seville, Spain, c. 1750.**

The Marquis' daughter Leonora waits for Don Alvaro, a Portuguese of royal blood heritage, with whom she intends to elope. He arrives, but at the point of their departure she suddenly decides to see her father one last time. Her father unexpectedly enters and threatens Alvaro with death. Alvaro, in order to remove any doubt about Leonora's purity, offers to surrender himself to the Marquis. His pistol accidentally goes off and mortally wounds the Marquis who dies cursing his daughter. Alvaro and Leonora escape.

### **ACT II. Scene 1: Outside the Church of Our Lady of the Angels in Hornachuelos, Spain, about eighteen months later.**

Leonora, whose brother Don Carlo is determined to avenge the Marquis' death by killing his sister, disguises herself as a man and seeks refuge at a monastery. She rejects Padre Guardiano's suggestion of life in a cloister. He then agrees to provide Leonora with hiding, solitude and sustenance in a nearby grotto.

**Scene 2: Inside the Church.** Padre Guardiano informs his Franciscan brothers of the arrangement and they agree to protect her secret presence and solitude. They join in a prayer to the Holy Virgin and God for protection.

### **ACT III. Scene 1: Military encampment near Velletri, Italy.**

Alvaro, believing Leonora dead, has joined the Spanish army as Don Federico Herreros. He saves the life of a stranger in his army, Don Felice de Hornos (Carlo, Leonora's brother, in disguise). The two soldiers, unaware of each other's true identity, swear eternal friendship, and run off together to join the call to battle. Alvaro is seriously wounded, and asks Carlo to care for his belongings which he is to destroy as soon as Alvaro dies. Although sworn to not look at the contents of his friend's letters, Carlo becomes suspicious of Alvaro and discovers his sister's picture among the wounded man's possessions. After a surgeon announces that Alvaro will recover, Carlo is overjoyed at the opportunity he now sees to finally avenge his father's death.

**Scene 2: Military quarters near Velletri some weeks later.** Workers at the military post, led by the gypsy Provasilla, entertain the soldiers with a lively Zapateado and a salute to brave heroes in battle. After they disperse, Alvaro, now restored to health, is joined by Carlo. Their true identities are revealed and Carlo forces Alvaro into a duel.

### **ACT IV. Scene 1: The Monastery of the Church of Our Lady of the Angels, five years later.**

During the intervening years Alvaro has taken holy vows and resides in the Monastery, unaware that Leonora lives as a hermit nearby. Carlo arrives and persuades Alvaro into yet another duel.

**Scene 2: Outside Leonora's grotto.** Leonora, still tormented by her past and love for Alvaro, prays for peace. After she retreats, the duel concludes with a mortal wound to Carlo. Alvaro calls out to the unknown hermit for help and is shocked to see Leonora emerge from the grotto. She rushes to embrace her dying brother. Carlo brings "the face of destiny" to its tragic conclusion by stabbing her as he expires. Guardiano, discovering the bloody scene, entreats the dying Leonora and the despondent Alvaro to seek forgiveness from God. Leonora tells Alvaro she will await him in the promised paradise of heaven, and dies.

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## ARTIST BIOS



**Brian Salesky** joined Knoxville Opera as its fourth General Director and Conductor in May, 2009. His administration has been marked by a period of artistic growth, presenting exciting young artists and veterans, and financial stability, including two consecutive years of debt-free "in the black" operations.

Mr. Salesky has enjoyed a highly versatile, international career as a conductor of symphonic and chamber orchestras, opera and oratorio, ballet and modern dance, Broadway musicals and popular music. Having just twenty-five years of service in the performing arts, he has also engaged in a wide variety of work as a producer/manager of concerts, opera, television, film and

radio, and has distinguished himself as an arranger, pianist, singer, educator, author, and consultant.

Mr. Salesky first won critical plaudits during his six-year tenure as a resident conductor and administrator with the New York City Opera. With the company in N.Y.C. and on tour in Los Angeles, Washington, and Mexico, his twenty-five opera repertoire included the "Love From Lincoln Center" telecast of *Les Contes de Hoffmann*. Mr. Salesky also served as the artistic and administrative director of the N.Y.C. Opera National Company, conducting *Carmina* and *Le Troubadour* in Lincoln.

The conductor has also appeared with the opera companies of Barcelona, Sydney, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Dallas, Central City, and Montana. Maestro Salesky has performed with the leading symphony orchestras of Chicago, Madrid, Winnipeg, Field, Denver, San Diego, Syracuse, the Kennedy Center, Chicago's Grant Park, Napo, South Bend, Greenstock, Texas and Greeley, and the chamber orchestras of Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and Woodstock. In his native New York City, Mr. Salesky has served as Music Director for the Congress of Strings, Musiques de Muck Chamber Orchestra, the Jamaica Symphony Orchestra, the Broadway revival of *Mom and Pa Store* (in with Raul Julia) and as Resident Conductor for George Abbott's Tony Award production of *On Your Toes*.

Away from the podium, the Indiana University Phi Beta Kappa graduate's eclectic range of activities have included exhibition positions with Indiana University, Hunter College, and the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, and Artistic Adviser positions with the symphony orchestras of Denver and L.A., Walt Disney Studios, The American Guild of Musical Artists, and the N.Y.C. Performing Arts Education Advisory Commission. He has also organized hundreds of singers, including Jean Sutherland, Catherine Malfitano, Richard Tucker, Sherrill Milnes, and Robert Merrill. From 1986 to 2001, he served as Co-founder, Executive Producer and fund-raiser, for the Raul Julia Fund for Hunger Relief's four million dollar campaign.

**Carroll Freeman** is the Director of Opera at the University of Tennessee and Artistic Director of Knoxville Opera Studio, was recently inducted in the Knoxville Opera Hall of Fame. In 1989 *Opera News* chose him as one of America's most exciting young tenors. He began his professional career as a child with the Columbus Haychoir. As a boy he also soloed with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera, and The Bell Telephone Hour on NBC TV. He starred as Peter in "Peter, the Gnomes" on the CBS TV series, *Look Up and Laugh*. Mr. Freeman made his New York City Opera debut in *La Traviata* and his European debut at the Edinburgh Festival in *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, repeating the success that he enjoyed in its world premiere with the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. His performance of Don Ottavio in Peter Sellars' production of *Don Giovanni* was seen worldwide, live in New York, Vienna, and Paris, and on video. He performed in Tokyo in the Japanese premiere of *Josquin*. He is featured on the Pra Aria CD, *J. M. S. Gilbert & Sullivan*, chosen by *CD Review* as one of the best classical CDs of 1993. Mr. Freeman has performed with Houston Grand Opera, Baltimore Opera, San Diego Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Atlanta Opera, New Orleans Opera, Minnesota Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, and Opera Pacific, to name a few. He has appeared with the festivals of Wolf Trap Farm Park, Papparo Summerfare, San Diego Springs, Lake George Opera, Chattanooga, Central City Opera, Artpark, and Des Moines Metro Opera. He has soloed with the Dallas Symphony; the Saint Louis Symphony; the Houston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Minnesota Symphony, National Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall. Mr. Freeman was a 1980 and 1981 winner of the National Opera Institute Award given at the Kennedy Center by the late Beverly Sills and Harold Prince. Mr. Freeman received his BM from the University of Southern Mississippi and his MPA from Oklahoma City University. A past Artistic Director of Mississippi Opera, the Opera Festival of Oklahoma, Opera Aegaea, Opera in the Ozarks, and Co-Director of the Des Moines Metro Opera apprentice program, he has stage directed for Knoxville Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Nashville Opera, Phoenix Metropolitan Opera, Opera El Paso, Mobile Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Company of Mid-Michigan, and Mississippi Opera, to name a few. Last summer, he starred in the title role of *The Music man* with Ringier Star Opera Theater. He and his wife, soprano Kay Paschal, are the proud parents of ten-year-old Adam.



**Carter Scott (Donna Leonora)**

**Birthplace:** Greensboro, North Carolina. **Foreign Opera Companies:** Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Bremen. **U.S. Opera Companies:** Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera, Santa Fe, San Diego, New York City, Virginia, Fort Worth, San Jose, Syracuse, Boulder, Mobile, Pensacola, Opera Pacific, Piedmont Opera. **Orchestras & Festivals:** Mobile Symphony, Lewis Zuzakala Festival.

**Manrico Tedeschi (Don Alvaro)**

**Birthplace:** Montreal, Canada. **Foreign Opera Companies:** La Scala (Milan), Arena di Verona, Berlin Staatsoper, Hungarian State Opera, Teatro La Fenice (Venice), Teatro Regio (Parma), Opera Marseilles, Teatro Regio (Turin), Teatro Massimo Bellini (Catania), Teatro Massimo (Palermo), Teatro Verdi (Parma), Teatro Comunale (Bologna), Teatro San Carlo (Naples), Teatro Carlo Felice (Genoa), Teatro Comunale (Modena), Politeama Grieco (Cora), Shanghai Opera, Munich Gasteig, Stuttgart Gasteig, Hungarian State Opera, Lithuanian Opera, Opera Lyon (Lyon). **U.S. Opera Companies:** Florida Grand, Tampa. **Orchestras & Festivals:** Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Festival Karantaidroti.



**James Dietsch (Don Carlo)**

**Birthplace:** Kansas City, Missouri. **Foreign Opera Companies:** Vienna, Geneva, Catania, Palermo, Rome, Bastille (Paris), Nancy (France), Berlin, Dusseldorf, Düsseldorf, Essen, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Saarbrücken, Vienna, Wiesbaden, Luxemburg, Opera North (England), Royal Scottish Opera, Montreal, Hamilton (Canadian Mantele/Canadian), Singschewan (Canada). **U.S. Opera Companies:** Arizona, Baltimore, Connecticut Grand, Connecticut, Dallas, Fargo Moorhead City, Florence (Midwestern), Fort Worth, Greensboro, Hawaii, Kansas City Lyric, Minnesota, New Orleans, New Jersey State, New York City, Opera Pacific, Palm Beach, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Utah, Washington National. **Orchestras & Festivals:** Artpark, Chattanooga, Hollyhock, Lake George, Spoleto, Waterloo, Wolftrap.



**Andrew Wentzel (Padre Guardiano)**

**Birthplace:** Mishawaka, Indiana. **Foreign Opera Companies:** Calgary (Canada). **U.S. Opera Companies:** Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand, Washington National, San Diego, New York City, St. Louis, Minnesota, Glimmerglass, Knoxville, Florida Grand, Indianapolis, Columbus, Boston Lyric. **Orchestras & Festivals:** Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, National Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, Chattanooga Symphony, Pensacola Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Owensboro Symphony, Pacific Symphony.



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**John Ames (Marquis of Calatrava)**  
**Birthplace:** Crescent City, California. **Foreign Opera Companies:** Bangkok. **U.S. Opera Companies:** San Francisco, Nevada, Indianapolis, Kentucky, Buzenau (MT), Indiana University Opera Theatre. **Orchestras & Festivals:** Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Baroque Or-Vestra, Reno Philharmonic, Reno Festival Or-Vestra, Chorus Pro Musica (Boston), Kalamazoo Piano Festival.



**Joey DiMenno (Preziosilla)**  
**Birthplace:** Hendersonville, Tennessee. **U.S. Opera Companies:** Nashville, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre. **Festivals:** Knoxville Opera Russia Festival. **Knoxville Opera Studio Member:** 2007-2008.



**Daniel C. Webb (Friar Melitone)**  
**Birthplace:** Moore, Oklahoma. **U.S. Opera Companies:** Haz Lufkinum Broadway production of *La Bohème*, St. Louis, Tulsa, Virginia, Knoxville, Central City (CO) Opera North, Univ. of Tennessee Opera Theatre. **Orchestras & Festivals:** St. Louis Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Knoxville Opera Russia Festival. **Knoxville Opera Studio Member:** 2003-2007.



**Mieke Rickert (Curra)**  
**Birthplace:** Seattle, Washington. **Foreign Opera Companies:** Opera Nuova (Edmonton, Alberta), Univ. of British Columbia Opera Ensemble (Vancouver, BC). **U.S. Opera Companies:** Skagit Opera (WA), Opera Pacific (Olympia, WA), University of Tennessee Opera Theatre. **Knoxville Opera Studio Member:** 2007-2008.



**John Arnold (Surgeon)**  
**Birthplace:** Marietta, Georgia. **U.S. Opera Companies:** Atlanta, Capitol City, Georgia State University Opera Theatre, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre. **Knoxville Opera Studio Member:** 2007-2008.

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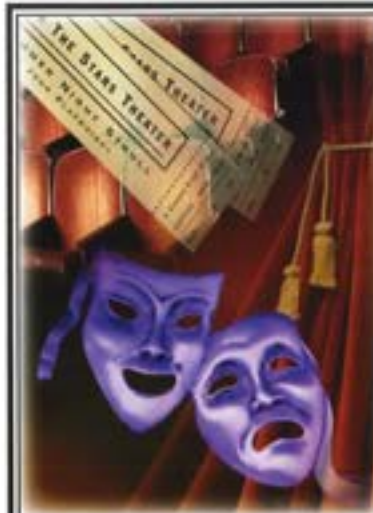
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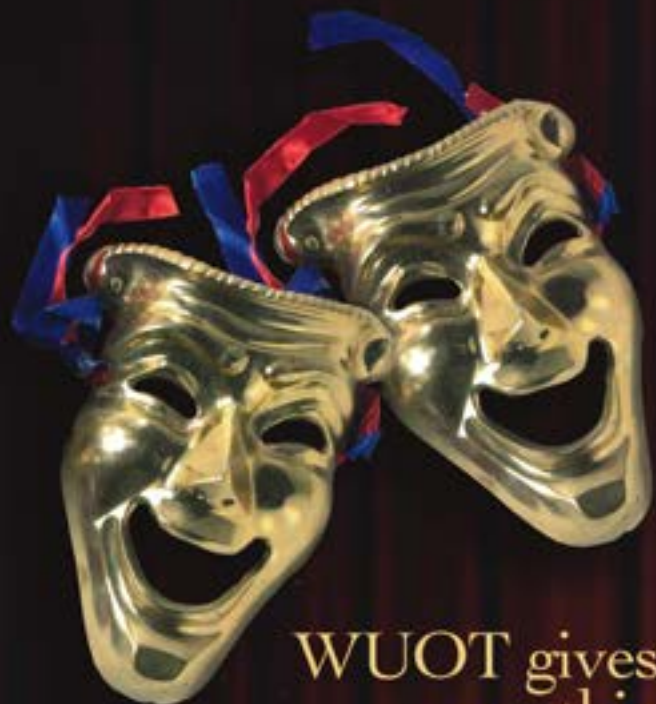


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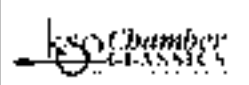
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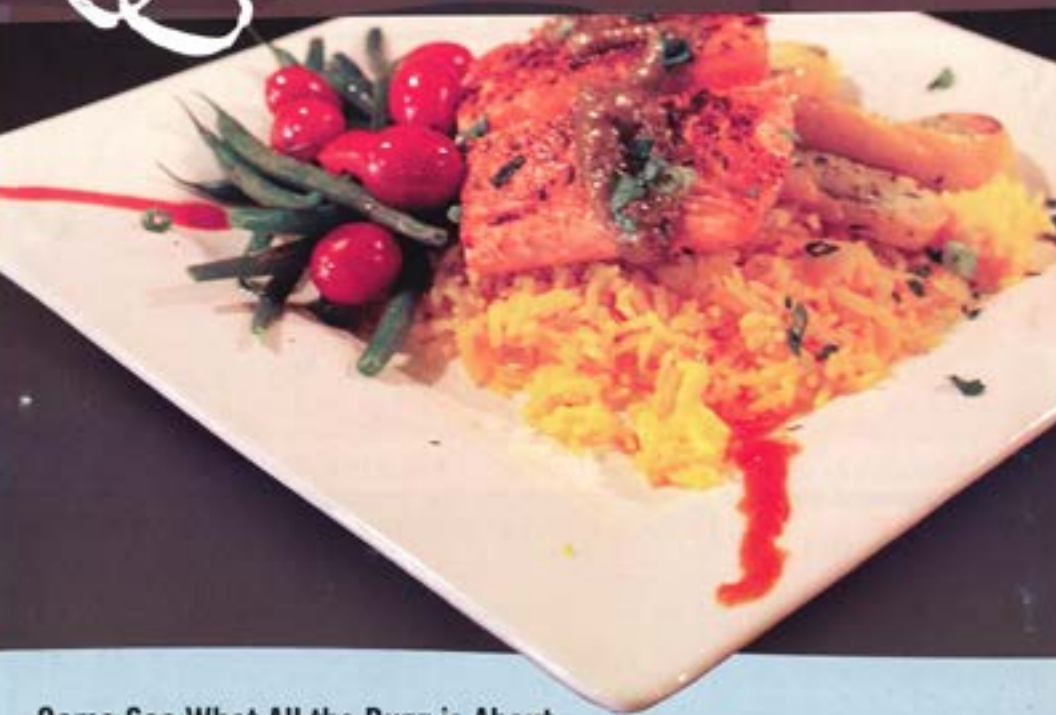




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